

HHS Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA)

Date of this Submission : **11/18/2003**

HHS Agency (OPDIV): **CMS**

Title of System or Information Collection: **Medicare Data Centers**

Is this System or Information Collection new or is an existing one being modified? **Existing**

Identifying Numbers (Use N/A, where appropriate)

Unique Project Identifier Number: **N/A**

System of Records Number: **N/A**

OMB Information Collection Approval Number and Expiration Date: **N/A**

Other Identifying Number(s): **N/A**

Description

1. Provide an overview of the system or collection and indicate the legislation authorizing this activity.

The Medicare Data Centers are primarily subcontractors to contracts CMS has awarded to entities to process Medicare claims. CMS contracts directly with two data centers. The data centers are used by companies that process Medicare claims for reimbursement of medical services rendered under the Medicare program. The Medicare Data Centers do not collect privacy identifiable information. The Title XVIII of the Social Security Act of 1965 authorized the Medicare program and gave the Administrator the authority to contract with insurance companies to process the program's claims.

2. Describe the information the agency will collect and how the agency will use the collected information. Explain how the data collected are the minimum necessary to accomplish the purpose for this effort.

Not applicable. This is a general support system.

3. Explain why the information is being collected.

Not applicable. This is a general support system.

4. Identify with whom the agency will share the collected information.

Not applicable. This is a general support system.

5. Describe how the information will be obtained, from whom it will be collected, what the suppliers of information and the subjects will be told about the information collection, and how this message will be conveyed to them (e.g., written notice, electronic notice if a web-based collection, etc.). Describe any opportunities for consent provided to individuals regarding what information is collected and how the information will be shared.

Not applicable. This is a general support system.

6. State whether information will be collected from children under age 13 on the Internet and, if so, how parental or guardian approval will be obtained. (Reference: Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998)

Not applicable.

7. Describe how the information will be secured.

The Data Centers do not store personal information. The Data Centers, however, do have physical, personnel, infrastructure, and system security measures in place to protect the facility, computer systems, programs and applications. For example, the Data Centers implement various physical access control techniques such as the use of access card readers, locked doors, and intrusion detection systems to control, restrict, and monitor access to the facilities. The Data Centers also use technologies, such as firewalls, logical access controls, and passwords to detect, restrict and monitor access to its systems.

8. Describe plans for retention and destruction of data collected.

Not applicable. This is a general support system.

9. Identify whether a system of records is being created under section 552a of Title 5, United States Code (the Privacy Act), or identify the existing Privacy Act system of records notice under which the records will be maintained.

Not applicable. This is a general support system.

Endorse

_____/s/_____
J. Ned Burford
CMS Privacy Officer

Date _11/21/2003_____

Endorse

_____/s/_____
Timothy P. Love
Chief Information Officer

Date: _11/21/2003_____

Approve

_____/s/_____
Thomas A. Scully
CMS Administrator

Date: _11/21/2003_____